

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

President Steven Nix
1st V.P. Glenn Sanders
2nd V.P. Howard Black
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Stacey Plooster
Sgt. in Arms: Bryan Hoyt
and Joe Bert



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Bids Recorder, David Chism

Volume 19, Number 11

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

November, 2019

Our next meeting is Thurs, November 21, 2019 at 7:00 PM, early arrivals, 6:00 P

2019 Fall Show Successful despite Rain and chilly weather both days

Club Meeting Calendar for 2019

Jan. 17	May 16	Sep. 19
Feb. 21	June 20	Oct. 17
Mar. 21	July 18	Nov. 21
Apr. 18	Aug. 15	Dec. 19



Dealer Ed McDonald has been doing our shows since 2003
Greets the author at his table at one of our more recent events

Despite two damp and cold weather days along with a major Baltimore Show taking away a number of our regular dealers the same weekend, our Nov. 15 & 16 Fall Show must be deemed as another success for our club. Sixty-four tables were sold with dealers featuring US, Foreign and Ancient coins, obsolete US and foreign paper money along with tokens, medals and examples of early and modern US commemorative coinage. Public attendance improved on the Saturday, Nov. 16 as the downpour had ended with families bringing their offspring to the show with the children receiving numismatic prizes.

Nowadays, it is difficult to avoid conflicts with other major shows being held elsewhere even at greater distances because convention centers now require organizations to schedule their events two years in advance. Despite these obstacles our club once again wishes to thank our General Show Chairman, David Chism for his efforts on arranging for another successful club event along with President Steven Nix and the many members who helped man the welcoming desk in the convention hall lobby both days. More details regarding the show will appear in the December, 2019 issue.

Die Varieties of Early US Coins Make a difference in Value

By Arno Safran



1817 13 stars and 15 stars Coronet large cent varieties
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view image more precisely.]

There are a tremendous body of enthusiastic collectors who specialize in collecting large cents by die variety, especially the so-called William Sheldon issues struck from 1793 thru 1814 whose book, "Penny Whimsy" published around 1950 identified the major details of every variety, some of which were extremely rare. Another large cent attributor was Harold Newcomb who specialized in the Coronet large cent series issued from 1816 thru 1839 and the two coins shown above are perhaps the most popular examples from that series.

The thirteen stars placed around the circumference of US coins of that period were usually seven on the left with six on the right. Apparently, one of the die sinkers working at the Philadelphia Mint in 1817 added two more stars to the variety shown on the right which was catalogued as N-16. The coin displays the regular seven stars on the left, one star centered atop and seven more on the right. As of Jan. 1, 1817 nineteen states were admitted to the Union, so the fifteen stars punched into the N-16 die variety had nothing to do with the number of states already admitted. It was simply an error and while the variety is not "rare" it is higher priced due to greater demand.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Die Varieties of Early US Coins Make a difference in Value

(Continued from page 1, columned)



An 1820 Capped Bust quarter, B2, R2 graded AU-55 by NGC
[Enlarge to view details]

Acquiring US quarters struck from 1796 thru 1828 are challenging for most collectors due to their low mintages and high circulation. During this period, the Mint had difficulty obtaining sufficient amounts of silver due to a scandal regarding the under-weighting of our silver coins during the early years of our nation's coinage. Fortunately, there were enough .903 fine silver Latin American 2 *Reales* that were similar in size to our quarter-dollars which were 27.5 mm for the Draped Bust type and 27mm for the Capped Bust that followed in 1815. These pieces relieved the Mint need for more silver for the time being.

The reported mintage for the 1820 dated Capped Bust quarter shown above was 127,444 with five known die varieties. The scarcest of the five is Var. 5, designated as an R5, quite rare, followed by Var. 1, R4, quite scarce, then Var. 3, an R-3 less common, and finally Varieties 2 and 5, both listed as R2s, fairly common, but not as common as a R1 would be.



Another 1820 Capped Bust quarter, B3, R3, graded VF-25 by PCGS
[Enlarge to view details]

The 1820 quarter shown atop the column, catalogued as a **B1, R2** was acquired back in 2001 via internet mail-order from a reputable firm and the lower grade example the, **B3, R4** at the 2003 FUN show from the same dealer "raw" for only 1/4 of the price of the commoner variety. It was later certified by PCGS as a VF-25. The **B** stands for A.W. Browning, an early attributer of the series although Steve Tomkins tome of 2008 on Capped Bust quarter is more detailed and user friendly. The important element here is eye appeal. Both coins are attractive in their respective grades and for a low end VF, the coin shown directly above displays the important features of its variety with clarity.

When attempting to identify a specific die variety each side of the coin must be studied separately. For the large size Capped Bust quarter, the following diagnostics should be considered. 1), the size of the numerals in the date, 2) the distance and positioning of the 1st, 7th, 8th and 13th stars to Miss Liberty, 3) also the position of the date in relation to Liberty's lower curl and the rim of the coin. For the reverse, it's the size of the lettering, and the positioning of the scroll housing **E PLURIBUS UNUM** in relation to the legend **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** on the upper portion of the circumference of the coin.



The 1820 Bust quarters B2, R2 and B3, R4 obverses
[Enlarge to view details]

The differences between die variety B2 and B3 are subtle. The numerals in the date are wider on the B2 and closer to each other on the B3 with the zero in the date on the B2 larger compared with the slightly smaller if wider medium zero on the lower grade scarcer B3 example at right. The 1 in the date is tall with long upper *serif* in the B-2 whereas the 1 in the B-3, the serif is blunted, hardly noticeable. **The stars** on the B3 all have a defective point, with the 13th star in **B2** being slightly further away from the zero in the date on the B2 (at left) than on the **B3** variety pictured at the right.



Detail showing different zero punches and size of date with the date at left higher than the one at right with the 2 further away from the zero than the coin at right



1820 Bust quarters obverses, R-2 & R3 obverse die varieties

The differences on the reverse are easier to locate as they are more pronounced. The denomination 25c is higher on the **B2** on the left than seen on the **B3** to the right where it appears closer to the rim. The first and last letters in the legend, **UNIITED SYTATES OF AMRERICA** are further away from the eagle's feathers in the R2 (at left) than the R3 (at right.) Finally, the scroll housing the motto, **E PLURIBUS UNUM** on the R2 specimen at left extends from before the D in UNITED and past the first A in AMERICA than the R3 variety at right.



Detail showing denominator differences between 1820 25c B-2 & B3



Detail showing different positions of motto in relation to legend

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Die Varieties of Early US Coins Make a difference in Value

(Continued from previous page)



The three Classic Head Half-cent die varieties of 1828
The C-1 is on lower left, the C-2 is atop the pyramid and the C-3 is on the lower right. [Enlarge to view details.]

In 1828, six out of the ten authorized coins were minted, the Classic Head copper half-cent and Coronet cent, the Capped Bust silver dime, quarter and half-dollar and one gold coin, the Capped Head \$5.00 half-eagle which is extremely rare. The five lower denominations are affordable depending on the grade but it is the lowly Classic Head half-cent denomination that enjoys the most popularity for that particular coin year because of the example located at the top of the pyramid.



An enlargement of the 1828 12 star C2, R2 variety half-cent
With seven stars at left but only five stars at right on the obverse
This variety is listed as an R-2 and is the second most common of the three varieties.



Enlargement of the 1828 13 star C3, R1 variety half-cent
Notice that on the reverse, the top center leaf
is slightly beyond the second letter S in STATES
This variety is listed as a R1 and is the most common of the three.



Enlargement of the 1828 C-1, R3 variety half-cent
Notice that on the reverse, the top center upper leaf ends
under the second letter S in STATES
Variety 1 is listed as a R3 and is the scarcest of the three varieties
struck that year.

The 1828 Classic Head half cent had a reported mintage of 600,000, the second highest of the series and there are only three known die varieties. While the 1828 Classic Head half-cent 12 stars C2 variety is by far the most popular, it is not rare, but it is priced higher than either the C1 or C3 varieties due to its popularity. The C stands for Roger S. Cohen, Jr., Collector and author of *AMERICAN HALF CENTS (Second Edition)* published in 1982. With so few varieties, the author decided to collect all three. It turned out that the 12 star example designated C-2 by Cohen was much easier to find than the C-1 which, like the C3, has the normal 13 stars but the author found nary a one over a decade of searching until Jim Barry, one of the charter members of the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club happened to show him a specimen at one of their earlier meetings back in 2003. While it was already certified in a NGC holder graded MS-61, it lacked any mention of the variety but after checking the diagnostics the author bought the coin on the spot. For the next several months a tenacious fellow member of the club continually asked the writer to sell him the piece--even at a profit--but the author declined.



1837 Capped Bust half-dime varieties,
At left, the LM-4 small 5c reverse graded AU-58 and at right,
The LM-5, lg. 5c reverse, graded AU-55, both by PCGS

Here's an interesting variety coupling. Of the five die varieties struck for the 1837 Capped Bust half-dime, only one was produced with a small, 5¢ on the reverse which is shown at left. It is quite rare and pricey from AU up. Varieties do matter!



Detail showing small 5c at left and large 5c at right

Augusta Coin Club, INC. Minutes of the Meeting October 17, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM at the Sunrise Grill by President Steve Nix. We had 41 members and three guests present.

Secretary's Report:

The September 19, 2019 minutes were not read, a copy to be kept on file.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was sent by mail by Stacey Plooster. We have \$11,657.58 deposited into the club's checking account.

Prize Winners:

Glenn Sanders and Tony Peters were winners of the 2019 silver eagles in the Attendance drawing and the winner of the 50.50 raffle was Geri Putnam.

Fall Show Report:

Bourse Chairman David Chism reported that as of the Oct. 17, 2019 meeting we had a total of 60 tables sold for our upcoming fall show scheduled for Fri. & Sat., Nov. 15 and 16. The show will be held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located off I-20, Exit 190 in Grovetown at the end of the Wal-Mart shopping center complex. For the past two shows, David reported that the dealers now set up on Thursday evening before the show and this has been a great success.

Show & Tell:

There were two Show & Tells.

Mac Smith displayed a silver coin of Roman Emperor Diocletian who was emperor from 284 to 306 AD. He was born to a family of low status in Dalmatia and as a young adult rose to the ranks of the military to become Roman Calvary Commander to the then Roman Emperor Carus. After the deaths of Carus and his son, Numerian on the military campaign in Persia, Diocletian was proclaimed Emperor. He dies in 344 AD in Croatia, the only emperor to retire while in office.

Jim Sproull displayed a 2019 W (for WestPoint Mint) quarter that he found in circulation and also displayed an 1867-1967 Ontario Confederation token.

The Program:

Walter Kublius, a member of the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club of Aiken, SC gave a PowerPoint presentation of *the coins of the Italian States from 1760-1870*. These states had been conquered by other European countries having great influence on their coins. During the 19th century, the French conquered parts of Italy along with Spain and Austria. At the time, Italy was divided into four kingdoms: Lombardi, Venetia, Sardinia and the two Sicily's. When France became involved in the Franco-Prussian War in 1870, the Italian army took advantage of that conflict and unified the country. In the period covered by Walter's program there were 158 different denominations of coins displaying a vast number of them used on the Italian peninsula from the 179 and during Napoleon's power thru -1815 and even long afterwards.. Pres, Steve Nix presented Walter with a certificate of appreciation.

The program for the November 21 meeting will be a PowerPoint presentation by Arno Safran on *the Women who posed for Miss Liberty on US Coinage*.

Old Business and 2020 Nominations for Officers:

Two juniors drew obsolete coins from the dealers' boxes. Our Nominating Committee Chairman is Everett Price and he will be taking nominations from members for club officers and the board of directors. If any member is interesting in running for office, please consult Everett. The nominations will be held at the November meeting with elections at the December dinner meeting.

New Business:

The Augusta Coin Club made a donation to the Alzheimer's Association in memory of member J.C. Williams. The annual Christmas Party meeting on Dec. 20 will be catered by our meeting place hosts; the Sunrise Grille.

The Augusta 2019 Club Medallion;



The 2020 Augusta Coin Club Medallion in Antique Bronze

2019 is the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of the Augusta Coin Club. The medallion struck in Antique-Bronze shown above is one of four alloys struck, the others being Antique copper, pure copper and silver-wash. Only twenty-five of each was made. Depending on how many are still left, the price to members is \$12.00 for each.

Area Shows:

Sumter, SC	Oct. 19, 2019
Greenville, SC SCNA Convention,	Oct. 25-27, 2019
Columbia, SC	Nov. 2, 2019
Chattanooga, TN TSNA Convention,	Nov. 8-10, 2019
Augusta Coin Club Fall Show	Nov. 15 & 16, 2019

Club Monthly Auction:

1st Vice President and Club Auctioneer, Glenn Sanders ran the auction (16 lots). Shelby Plooster and Everett Price delivered the winning bids to the patrons thereby speeding up the proceedings. Our bids recorder was David Chism. Thanks go out to the four members who helped out.

Respectfully submitted

John F. Attaway

Thanks, John for the minutes you prepare for each meeting of our club. We all appreciate what you do! (ED.)

The Series of 1918 \$2.00 Battleship Note



**The \$2.00 Federal Reserve Bank Note Series of 1918
AKA "The Battleship note"**
[Courtesy of Wikipedia] [Enlarge page to fill screen.]

Towards the end of the First World War in 1918, the US having recently entered the conflict in 1917, decided to issue a special banknote that featured a battleship on the back indicating at that point in time its future willingness to assist Europe again if needed. President Woodrow Wilson was regarded as the most popular leader in the free world and as it turned out Europe would need our country's help some 23 years later when President Franklin Roosevelt declared war on Germany and the third Reich on Dec. 8, 1941, one of the three nations known as the Axis Powers which also included Italy and Japan who had attacked Pearl Harbor in the Pacific the day before..

Today, this particular obsolete \$2.00 Federal Reserve banknote type is one of the most popular with collectors of large size US paper money. The face of the note displays a portrait of Thomas Jefferson, our third president and the creator of our "Declaration of Independence" on the left engraved by Charles Burt. It is somewhat balanced by the large blue seal shown on the right. In the center with bold capital lettering is BOSTON, identified by A-1 on four sides of the note indicating it as the first of the twelve US Federal Reserve Bank cities. The back of the note features the large size battleship of the early type used in World War I, smoke rising towards the rear from one of the large chimneys in the center of the ship engraved by C. M. Chalmers.

Only certified graded notes are recommended with prices ranging from a low of around \$300 for a VG through \$995 for a VF-30 but such examples have very little eye appeal showing folds and faded color. VF-35 to XF-40s look a lot nicer but the grade of choice appears to be PMG certified XF-45 examples but they sell for around \$1,500 figure. MS-60s begin at the \$2,000 level and crisp MS-63's & 64s well above that figure. Regrettably, the train may have left the station for most of us.

Augusta Coin Club Awarded Georgia Club of the Year at the SCNA its annual convention



**The 2019 47th SCNA Convention on opening day, Fri. Oct. 25
The editor seen in the blue shirt at the first table**

The editor recently returned from attending the 47th South Carolina Numismatic Association convention held in the lovely city of Greenville, SC and was witness to a number of pleasant surprises aside from enjoying the show itself. After a series of several location changes due to the increase in dealer and collector attendee, the SCNA was able to use the right side of the Convention's main entrance which turned out to be the perfect fit. The large room included a central area for exhibits, and at the left center an excellently run food concession with round tables nearby as well plus a large meeting room to hold the Sunday breakfast meeting for dealers and SCNA members receiving awards.

At the breakfast meeting on Sunday, Oct. 27, annual awards were presented. The first was to one of our newer members, Steve Kuhl; former President of the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club of Aiken, SC who joined the South Carolina Numismatic Association a while ago and recently was elected to their Board of directors. He became the editor of **the SCanner**, was cited by outgoing SCNA President Randy Clark for the four excellent issues he produced during the SCNA's 2019 fiscal year. At the same event, the SCNA presented for the first time **Clubs of the Year** plaques to two clubs, both from, our area the **SJ CSRA CC of Aiken, SC** and our own **Augusta Coin Club** with President Steve Nix on hand to receive the award for the ACC. Finally, yours truly received the **"Numismatist of the year"** award as well. As for as the numismatic aspects of the show, the bourse had a number of very of attractive and tempting numismatic items for sale along with a series of very fine original exhibits.

All of the foregoing begs the question, Why aren't more members of the Augusta Coin Club taking advantage of attending the three major shows outside our immediate area, the just recorded South Carolina convention held in Greenville, a drive of slightly more than two arrows from our meeting place in Martinez, GA and the two shows held in Dalton, GA, the GNA and BRNA, closer to four hours with Vans available for a round trip to either SCNA or GNA at only \$10.00 each?

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More on the Show and Nominations

Due to the proximity of the show and our upcoming meeting, the editor could not publish the financial details or prize winners at this time but they will appear in the next issue.

Don't forget to attend the next two meetings, this one for nominating officers this coming Thursday, Nov. 21 and the pre Christmas dinner meeting hosted by the Sunrise Grill on Dec. 20.

Commentary

By next month, the newsletter will have completed its nineteenth year of continuous publication. Over that timeframe, very few articles have been written by fellow members except for former president, Bill Myers and former Treasurer, Xavier Pique. Bill moved to Tucson, AZ in 2008 and retired from the US Army as a full Colonel a few years ago. He is a member of the Tucson, AZ club and still very active as a numismatist and exhibitor attending many shows throughout the western United States, also F.U.N. in Orlando, FL and Canada as well. He still occasionally will send us articles.

Regarding educational numismatic programs at our meetings, there was a period before 2009 when the club enjoyed a rotation of three members, Xavier Pique, Bill Myers and yours truly, each presenting PowerPoint programs every three months, four times a year. With the exiting of Bill and Xavier, many of our PowerPoint programs are now presented by fellow members of the nearby Stephen James CSRA Coin Club of Aiken along with yours truly, a member of both area clubs. These have included Chuck Goergen, Walter Kublius, Richard Baker, Steve Kuhl, Jim Mullaney and Jerry Lipsky, some of the aforementioned having presented other programs here as well. Every single one of these presentations have been excellent and interesting from a numismatic, historic and geographical point of view, each based on a variety of numismatic topics.

In the not too distant future, possibly early in 2020, Jim Mullaney--who is Secretary of the Aiken club--will return to give a PP presentation on the US Commemorative coinage engraved by numerous sculptors whose magnificent statues appear at the famed Brookgreen Gardens located in the Charleston, SC area.

With today's advance in cyber-technology, it is now possible for many a collector to create a program based on their numismatic interests and share it with our club members.